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ASSOCIATION OF
ASSISTANT
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THE UNIVERSITY
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FEB 12 1961

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THE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

VOLUME 54
NUMBER 1
JANUARY 1961

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THE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Official Journal of the Association of Assistant Librarians

(Section of the Library Association)

EDITOR: PETER LABDON

Central Library, Southgate, Stevenage

78
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2265

VOL. 54, NO. 1.

JANUARY, 1961

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Every President of the A.A.L. must hope that his year of Office will be a momentous one. I must, therefore, consider myself extremely fortunate, for there is little doubt that 1961 will prove to be one of the most vital in the history of librarianship.

The reorganisation of the L.A., the possibility of a really professional association, the future structure of the A.A.L., voting rights within the profession, a new examination syllabus, new examination rules and regulations, more "graduate" schools, the Public Lending Right Bill, the Library Award, and perhaps the implementation of some of the recommendations of the Roberts Report—these may all become really live issues, each demanding full, vigorous and judicious consideration. Although the A.A.L. Council has already discussed some of these and has directed its representatives accordingly, the final word may not yet have been said.

The real strength of the A.A.L. has always been in the enthusiasm and loyalty of its members in the Divisions. More than ever the future of the profession lies with the young librarian, but I ask every member of the Association, whether under 30 years of age or over, to think carefully about these matters; to discuss them with colleagues; if necessary to bully their Divisional Representatives into action; to attend professional meetings and to express their views with sincerity (no matter how hesitantly). It is up to every one of us to see that the foundations of an effective professional body are laid during the year, so that in the future all librarians will enjoy good working conditions, the highest possible prestige in the community—and of course, salaries to match! The A.A.L. has still a great and essential part to play and all that it has done in the past, and is doing in the present, can be done even better in the future if we individually and collectively want it that way.

As a backbencher of long standing, I am deeply conscious of the honour bestowed on me in asking me to lead the "Front Bench." I hope I can help in some small way to make the A.A.L. the *Association of Active Librarians*, for this is what I have always considered it to be. As President, may I offer my best wishes, and those of the Council, to all members for a happy, healthy and successful 1961.

W. HOWARD PHILLIPS.

The Art of Editorship

Editors of *The Assistant Librarian* by custom rule for a relatively short period. One must assume that the intention is to ensure the continuance of the democratic tradition of the A.A.L. as well as to provide variety—since no editor so far as is known has ever been compared to Cleopatra. It is to the credit of those who have gone before, therefore, that they have succeeded respectively in impressing on the journal the impact of their own personalities. Dean Harrison was no exception to the rule. He was always accurate and fair in his comment and imbued his contributors with much of his own enthusiasm. The debt of the membership to him for his work over the past three years is very great; it is inadequately discharged by the simple expression of our thanks and best wishes for the future.

A.A.L. CONFERENCE—1961

Conference in 1961 will be held at St. John's College, York, from April 7th to 9th. The theme: "Status for the '60s"; will be of interest to special and university librarians and to librarians from Scotland and Northern Ireland. Full details and booking form will appear in *The Assistant Librarian*, but anyone with ideas or requiring advance information may impart the one and acquire the other by writing to Roy Oxley, Regional Library, Bridge Street, Belper, Derbyshire.

Index, 1960

The index to the 1960 volume of the *Assistant Librarian* (volume 53) has been sent with this issue to all subscribers. Further copies may be obtained on application to J. S. Davey, F.L.A., 49, Halstead Gardens, London, N.21, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

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In spite of E. V. Corbett's comprehensive book on the subject, and Helen Geer's general work on Charging Systems, there remains a need for a simple introduction to the basic principles and practices of photo-charging, for use by students with no practical experience of the system and no opportunity even to see it in action. As a correspondence course tutor I have from time to time found it necessary to help individual students by compiling such introductory notes as these, illustrated by actual specimens of stationery and film. Publication of this article may perhaps save me the trouble in the future, and help other students and tutors with similar problems.



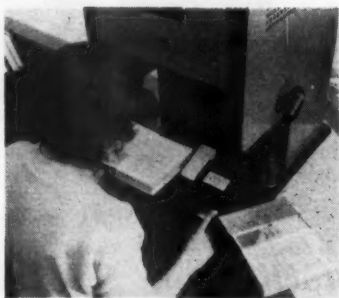
This Photocharging ***by A. C. Jones***

Deputy Borough Librarian, Paddington.

In the simplest terms, photocharging is a system of recording loans by taking a photograph of each book as it is borrowed from the library, together with the name and address of the person borrowing it. Most of those books will be returned in good time, and so no further reference to the photograph will ever be required. A comparatively small minority will be kept overdue, and it may be necessary eventually to identify them and their borrowers in order to set about recovering them. For this purpose each "transaction" (i.e. loan) must be given an individual number, and the numbers of all books returned must be recorded, so that at the moment of sending overdue notices the missing numbers which represent books *not* returned can be quickly identified. This is done by means of a "transaction card," which is the third item included in each photograph.

THE MACHINE. The Recordak Microfilmer which is used to take the photographs is shown at the top of this page. The box on the top contains both camera (on the left) and projector (on the right), so that the same machine can be used later on to read the processed film, simply by operating the switch below the box. The camera is operated by one of the two black buttons on the bed of the machine, or by a foot pedal. When the projector is in use the film is controlled by the handle on the right.

CHARGING. The process of positioning the three elements, book, ticket and transaction card, on the bed of the machine and pressing the exposure button becomes extremely rapid with a little practice; Corbett calculated 3.25 seconds per book for the complete charging process. It is common practice to leave a stack of transaction cards on the bed of the machine, inserting one in the book pocket after the photograph has been taken; it is also found convenient to write the required details of the book on the top corner of the front end-paper, so that it is the corner of the book itself which is inserted into the photograph area and not a loose book-card, though this could be used quite well instead. The reader's ticket can, of course, be left in position until all books being borrowed have been photographed, but it is then handed back to him and *not* retained in the library.

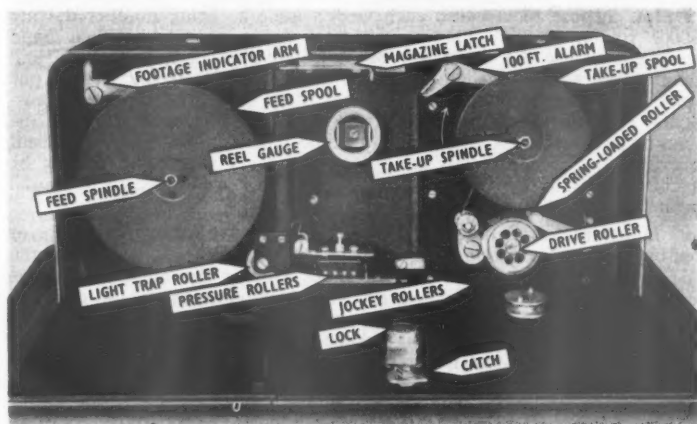


THE EXPOSURE. Book, transaction card and reader's ticket lie side by side on the bed of the microfilmer. The assistant is about to press the exposure button.

One further point should be noted about the transaction card: this is the convenient place on which to indicate to the reader the date by which the book is due back, and it is necessary to stamp this due-date on all transaction cards before use. Several dates in succession can, of course, be stamped on the same card. When punched cards are used as transaction cards it is usual to provide in each book a deep pocket with a window, so that the card may be adequately protected from handling but the due-date not obscured.

It is also worth mentioning here that photocharging does not lend itself to the production of detailed issue statistics. The total issue for the week is represented by the number of transaction cards used, easily determined by noting their serial numbers. Many libraries find it useful also to keep a record of the number of non-fiction books issued by means of a cyclometer-type hand tally. More detailed figures can only be kept for a limited period for a particular purpose; usually they are not worth the considerable trouble involved in collecting them.

THE FILM. 16mm. film for use with the Recordak Microfilmer is supplied in reels of 200 feet, each of which will record about 12,000 loans, or more than a week's issue in many libraries using the system. As the photographs are taken the film is wound on to a smaller spool taking 100 feet, and each of these when full is sent away to be processed. There is ample time for this, since it will not be necessary to refer to the film again for several weeks after the week of issue, when the time comes to write overdue notices for books not yet returned.



THE CAMERA. *This picture shows how the film is fed from the 200ft. spool on the left to the 100ft. take-up spool on the right.*

TRANSACTION CARDS. Meanwhile, the books are in the hands of their readers, each book containing a transaction card, each transaction card bearing a different number. This then is a convenient moment to pause and consider the transaction card in more detail. Basically it is nothing more than a numbered card to identify the particular transaction, though it also carries the date-due-back, as already explained. Transaction cards are inserted into books when they are issued, and removed from them when they are returned. They must then be sorted into order so that gaps in the sequence of cards known to have been used on a particular day, or in a particular week, will reveal the numbers of those transactions which have not yet been completed—i.e., books which have not yet been returned. Some of these incomplete transactions will be due to books having been renewed, and provision must be made for inserting into the sequence the transaction numbers of books which have been renewed.

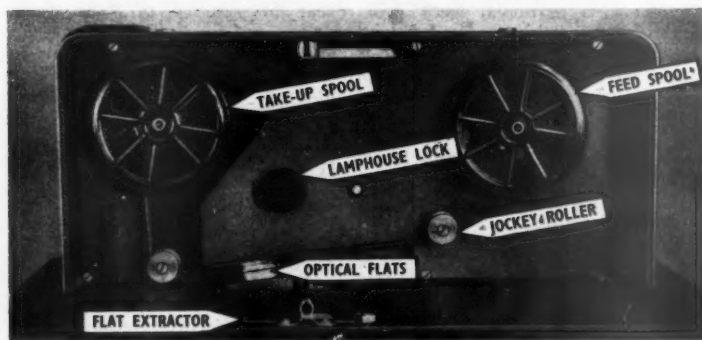
One of the great advantages of photocharging over the familiar Browne system is that it very largely eliminates the human error which could so easily result in inaccurate discharging, lost tickets and all their accompanying ills. But the long and uninteresting task of sorting some 10,000 transaction cards each week by hand is equally subject to human error, however many checks and other safeguards may be imposed, and for this reason most libraries have preferred to use punched cards for the purpose so that the process of sorting can be mechanized. Besides being much more efficient this process is obviously quicker, and so results in a further saving of staff time and temper. But the necessary equipment is expensive, and it is only possible to introduce punched cards into a library when the machinery for sorting them is available elsewhere, usually in the Borough Treasurer's Department, where it performs many other functions. The choice of the most convenient sequence of numbers

for transaction cards presents many problems, but it is sufficient for our present purpose to visualise each week's issue as being numbered from 00001 to 10,000—or whatever the total figure may be. When hand sorting is in use the week may be indicated by a preceding letter, and up to twenty-six sequences of cards may be used, each covering one week's issue. It is important only that there should be sufficient transaction cards to cover the period from the issue of a book, through the sending of overdue notices, until the time when the bulk of subsequent queries have been disposed of—fifteen to twenty weeks will usually be a convenient supply. After that the sequences are perfected and used again.

DISCHARGING. The process of discharging a book consists only of removing the transaction card from its pocket. When this is done the last date stamped on the card will show whether the book is overdue, and a simple chart on the counter will reveal the amount of any fine owing. But if all is well the reader can pass immediately into the library. He needs no "receipt", since his ticket is already in his possession. It is important, however, and in his own interest, that he should pause long enough to enable the staff to remove the transaction card in his presence, since queries sometimes arise through books being returned to the library without cards, or returned to the shelves with the cards still in position.

One further process must be carried out before the book is returned to the shelves. The method of reserving a book by means of a "signal" in the issue, used in the Browne charging system, is no longer possible with photocharging. Instead, a list must be made of all books reserved, and every returned book must be checked against this list before being shelved. Visible index panels with removable slips are usually used for the purpose of listing, and checking in this way is no more troublesome than by marking the charges in a Browne issue—indeed it has a number of obvious advantages.

OVERDUES. When it is time to send out overdue notices, the first step is to go through the file of returned transaction cards, by that time



THE PROJECTOR. A spool of processed film is here fitted into the projector, as it would be for reading details of overdue books. When projected on to the screen below, each transaction can be identified by its number.

sorted into order, and make a list of all the missing numbers. With punched cards it is possible to have this done mechanically. The appropriate roll of film is then placed in the projector, and read on a white screen which can be hinged down on to the bed of the machine. Two assistants normally work together, one calling out the missing numbers in turn, the other finding the place on the film and reading out details of the book, and the reader's name and address.

It is convenient at this stage to be able to identify each book by name, if only to check on reserved books which may be overdue, and this amply justifies the rather lengthy job of recording *full* details on the corner of the end-paper to be photographed, instead of just the accession number.

When details of overdue books have been copied out, this written record is used for all future sending of overdue notices, and no further use is normally made of the film. It may sometimes be nice, however, to show to a sceptical reader the actual photograph of his ticket next to the book which he swears he has never had, and it may also occasionally be necessary to make a print from the film to be produced as evidence in the event of a prosecution for the non-return of a library book. It is not always understood that, with the exception mentioned, the film is used in the projector once and once only. To search through a film for particular books, or for books on loan to particular readers, is quite out of the question.

Illustrations on pages 5, 7 and 8 are by courtesy of Kodak Ltd. That on page 6 is from the A.A.L. filmstrip on charging methods.

A.A.L. PUBLICATIONS

AVAILABLE AGAIN

A.A.L. Guide to the Registration examination: 6s. to members.

Mallaber: Primer of bibliography: 10s. to members.

TEMPORARILY O/P

Phillips: Primer of book classification. Reprinting—available early 1961. Price to be announced.

Corbett: The Public Libraries Committee. 2nd ed. in preparation. Available summer, 1961.

Binns: Introduction to Historical Bibliography. 2nd ed. in preparation. Available summer, 1961.

READY EARLY 1961

Cumulative Fiction Index. Cumulating the first two volumes, with further indexing to 1960. Full details to be announced.

Copies may be obtained from J. S. Davey, 49, Halstead Gardens, London, N.21.

PERMANENTLY O/P

We regret that *Hepworth: Primer of Assistance to readers* is permanently out of print.

THE POWYS FAMILY

II. Theodore Francis Powys (1875-1953)

by T. D. Wilson,

C. A. Parsons & Co. Nuclear Research Centre

It has been said of T. F. Powys that he wrote "as though no one had ever written before," and indeed, although critics detect the influence of Jane Austen and John Bunyan among others, I doubt whether anyone upon reading the novels and stories of T. F. Powys for the first time can fail to be struck by the startling simplicity of his language and his originality of thought.

Born at Shirley in Derbyshire, the third in the family, he subsequently moved with his parents to Dorchester and thence to Montacute. Unlike his two brothers, he did not go to university but became a farmer for a few years. Deciding that this occupation did not interest him sufficiently and that a quiet life in Dorset would be more to his liking, he went to live at the seaside village of Studland for a short while and moved to East Chaldon in 1904, where he stayed for over thirty years, making the village and the surrounding countryside the scene of many of his stories.

Theodore Powys had begun to write at his farm at Sweffling and continued to write from that time on, but he was not an immediate success as a writer. In fact he was an almost complete failure. His first published work, "An interpretation of Genesis," only reached the presses because Louis Wilkinson and John Cowper Powys shared the publication expenses.

It was not until he was forty-seven, in 1923, that a commercial publisher, Chatto and Windus, undertook to publish his novel, "The Left Leg." This was the turning point of his career and novels and stories followed "The Left Leg" in rapid succession, a not surprising fact considering that most of them had been waiting in manuscript form for years.

The response of the critics to this "new" writer was immediate. *The Morning Post* said of "The Left Leg":

"A new writer of unusual accomplishment . . . Nature in his Kailyard is red of claw and its human nature is visioned in elemental characters. He may be right or he may be wrong; but . . . he realises it in these stories with a remarkable art."

Of "Black Bryony," *The New Statesman* said:

"From the rows of imitative, dull, accomplished novels which face the modern reader, his work stands out with the sharpness and definition of a real tree in a stage wood."

A statement as true in 1960 as it was in 1923.

T. F. Powys was an enigma: a hermit with many friends in the outside world—Hardy, Sylvia Townsend Warner, David Garnett and others; a man scornful of the clergy and conventional morality who nevertheless read the lessons at East Chaldon church for over thirty years; and a quiet man who yet had a tremendous influence and impact

upon those who knew him. His brother John, writing to Louis Wilkinson, says,

"You don't *seem* afraid of Theodore at all! . . . I am terrified of Theodore—well! 'terrified' is perhaps not quite the word; a little too strong—but I certainly tend to propitiate him as I would propitiate Nietzsche or Heraclitus: and yet it's not for his ideas or thoughts exactly; but for the original shock of surprise—and that *starting back*—which the expression of his thoughts or ideas or observations gives me."

and Louis Wilkinson, his friend for 60 years, writes (under the pen-name Louis Marlow) in "Seven Friends,"

"When the slight ripples of our 'daring' jests were spent, how decorous a gesture he would cast in those same waters, but far deeper than any of our plummets could sound, his own grave word."

The critics have not always been kind to T. F. Powys; he has been said to have a "corrupt and evil preoccupation with sex," and Mr. Norman Nicholson has described him as "bawdy and blasphemous," judgments easily refuted by reference to his books.

"A time of quietude that is full of the right contentment, can solace, just as the fierce agony, the great joy of passion, can arm each participant with so holy an ecstasy the valley of the shadow is passed in a moment, and the yellow sun is seen rising over the mountains of eternity."

These are the words of the blasphemous writer with the "evil preoccupation with sex."

There is no doubt that Theodore Powys wrote much about the darker side of man's nature, but this was with reason. His decision to concentrate upon this theme was no more involuntary or motiveless than Wilfrid Owen's decision to direct his poetic energies to the horrors of war. T. F. Powys *had* to emphasise the evil, greedy, lustful side of man because this was the side which he hated and wished to eradicate.

"Mr. Tasker's Gods" is generally cited as an illustration of T. F. Powys's preoccupation with brutality, and it certainly contains some horrible scenes, but they are scenes which are portrayed with an obvious hatred of man's inhumanity to man and other living creatures. H. Coombes, in his critical study, "T. F. Powys" records that he heavily underscored in his copy of Young's "Night Thoughts," a line about death:

"This king of terrors is the prince of peace"

and perhaps a Buddhist meditation practice, that of meditating upon the transient nature of the human body and the way it decays, in order to achieve inner peace, also has relevance here.

"Mark Only" is a "dark" novel, the story of a ploughman gradually going blind and losing what little contact he had with life and love. Anger, greed and lust, feelings which have no part in Mark's own make-up, play a large part in his degradation and death, but one is left with the impression that the "king of terrors is the prince of peace," and that in his last moments Mark realises this:

"'Twas a kind maid to lead I to they quiet dogs," he murmured. "In olden times I did use to fear they death's

dogs, but now they be all round a-licking of I. They dogs be kinder than warm stable, they dogs be, an' there bain't nor wife nor maid that be so loving kind as they good dogs."

Theodore Powys's major work is generally acknowledged to be "Mr. Weston's Good Wine," a somewhat lighter work than his others, fortunately in print again: the story of an evening visit to Folly Down by Mr. Weston, wine merchant, and his assistant Michael. Those who drink Mr. Weston's darkest wine have no more problems, but no credit is allowed. He brings death and joy to Folly Down, all in one evening when time stands still. Extracts can do no justice to this allegory, but the "air" of the novel is given in the thoughts of the Reverend Nicholas Grobe, the minister who has lost his belief in God:

" 'How silent everything is to-night,' thought Mr. Grobe. 'Out of such a stillness a holy faith may come. If this evening be but long enough, who can tell what will not happen? If the evening do but last, then a bottle will be filled with wine; then I shall dare to name Him again.' "

T. F. Powys wrote many good short stories, the "Fables" (later called "No Painted Plumage") being particularly fine. Again the dark nature of man is emphasised and condemned. Of these stories H. Coombes writes:

"The moral effect of the fables lies in their art; by their incident and dialogue, by the finely sustained tone, they move, invigorate, and enlighten. They add up to a humane vision of life, rendered with beauty and power."

T. F. Powys stopped writing almost entirely in 1932, and between then and 1953 the only works of any size were two collections of short stories, "Captain Patch," and "Bottles Path." There is, however, a great deal in what he did write; ideas to ponder over and attitudes to reach an understanding with. Far too much to be encompassed within a brief article. For those who wish to know more there are the novels and stories, though these are not always easily obtained, and the excellent study by H. Coombes.

No better conclusion to any study of Theodore Powys could be found than a few words from "Seven Friends":

"The appeal of his works is not only to a coterie. To a minority, yes; but, so I believe, to minority that will exist through coming centuries."

Works mentioned.

"The Left Leg "	Chatto & Windus	1923
"Black Bryony "	"	1923
"Mr. Tasker's Gods "	"	1924
"Mark Only "	"	1924
"Mr. Weston's Good Wine "	"	1927
(Available in Penguin Books ed.)	"	
"Fables "	"	1929
(Changed in 1934 to "No painted plumage")		

Critical study. "T. F. Powys," by H. Coombes,

Barrie and Rockcliffe. 1960

Memoir.

"Seven Friends," by Louis Marlow (i. e. Louis Wilkinson)
Richard Press, 1953.

Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers

I first began to know Mr. Sayers in 1911, when I went to my first Assistants' meeting at Stoke Newington, at which Benson Thorne made me so welcome and at home, but Sayers was there, too, perhaps at that time a slightly awesome figure.

At Easter in 1912 myself and my wife went to one of the first Easter Schools organized by the Library Assistants' Association, as it was then, and very largely by Mr. Sayers.

He must have taken some interest in us, as indeed he did in many other assistants, for in 1913 he was instrumental in getting me to Croydon as librarian of the Reference Library; subsequently he put me in the Lending Library, and later played a vital part in getting me the Deputy Librarianship of what was at that time the outstanding public library system in the country. When he retired at the end of 1947 it was largely due to him that I had the honour of sitting in his chair as Chief Librarian. My debt to him is inestimable.

Apart from Benson Thorne, whom I would bracket equal with him in many ways, and not forgetting men like H. D. Roberts and J. D. Stewart, there is no question but that Mr. Sayers did more for the "Assistants" as we were then called than any other single person.

He was a wonderful speaker as well as a writer, with an outstanding personality. Besides going up and down the country and putting enthusiasm into assistants working under bad and ill-paid conditions, it was he who put the correspondence courses of the Association on the map with his very elaborate course on classification before the days when there were any of his or anyone else's textbooks on the subject. I remember paying ten shillings for the course. After I had been at Croydon for a few years he passed it over to me as it stood, and I ran it for some years before going over to the subject that has interested me most: cataloguing.

Many, many hundreds of men and women in librarianship must owe him a very great debt of gratitude for his work and personal interest.

Even after he had succeeded the distinguished Stanley Jast as Chief Librarian of Croydon, he still retained his interest in the lower dogs, though, naturally, he became concerned with the work of the Library Association, where he gave such distinguished service, which has been referred to in the *Record*.

As a man, he was just as wonderful. He was always even-tempered. During my time with him he never spoke an unkind word. If there might have been any slight difference between us, it was usually I who started it, but it was soon over. I doubt if we shall see quite his like again. I have called him "Mr." throughout, a tribute to the respect in which we held him.

As an indication of the regard in which he was held by his employing authority, when he retired he was given a room in the Town Hall in which every day he did his literary and professional work, and much other. At the end, the Mayor, the Town Clerk and quite a number of members of the Council attended his funeral service in the Parish Church, together with about 400 other friends, including a great number of librarians and assistant librarians with whom he had been associated.

HENRY A. SHARP.

A.A.L. CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

REVISION COURSES, MARCH-JUNE, 1961

A limited number of *Registration* and *Final* courses will be available for the session March-June. These short period courses are reserved exclusively for those students who have already sat the examination in the subjects required.

The closing date for application is *20th February*: it must be emphasised that after this date no application will be considered. Overseas students are ineligible.

FULL LENGTH COURSES

Application for *F.P.E.*, *Registration* and *Final* courses beginning Spring, 1961, must be completed and returned by *28th February*. Full particulars of the courses offered are given in the current edition of the *Students' Handbook*.

FORMS, FEES AND ENQUIRIES

Application for forms must be accompanied by stamped addressed envelopes and should be sent to the *A.A.L. Hon. Education and Sales Officer, Mr. J. S. Davey, F.L.A.*, 49, *Halstead Gardens, Winchmore Hill, London, N.21*. The fee for each course, both revision and full length, is £3 10s. 0d. Students outside Europe taking full length course are charged 10s. extra for each course.

A.A.L. Panel of Tutors

Vacancies have occurred in the Panel for Registration Classification tutors. Mr. Davey will be pleased to send all particulars to Fellows interested in this work.

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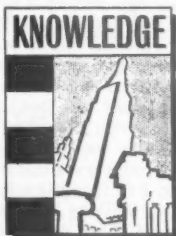
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PIETY AND WIT

Council Notes—10th November, 1960

Council again opened on a solemn note. Members stood in silence and remembered the late Mr. R. Davison, an active A.A.L. tutor, and the late Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers, one of the Association's few Honorary Fellows and a respected and prominent member of the profession to whom the A.A.L. owed a great deal.

At the September meeting of the Council disquiet was expressed at the disparity in the treatment accorded to the L.A. Scarborough Conference by two reputable national newspapers; P. M. Caldwell of G.L.D. had given particulars of an abortive attempt to enter into correspondence on the subject with the offender. The Honorary Secretary had written to the L.A. Public Relations Adviser and he now reported the terms of Mr. Higgins' reply. Editor's privilege was pleaded by way of explanation, and Mr. Higgins offered no prospect of avoiding a recurrence. No further action was proposed, but it was clear that members considered the situation most unsatisfactory in the light of the extent of present expenditure on Public Relations by the L.A.

Among the items reported by the Honorary Secretary were details of thirteen valid nominations received for 1961 National Councillors, five of which were for members under thirty years of age. An interjection by the Presiding Officer and Vice-President, Mr. Phillips, to the effect that he hoped he was not creating a precedent in making a nomination himself produced a flash of Presidential wit. Mr. A. C. Jones gave the assurance that the nomination was quite in order and did not create even a vice-precedent!

The film strip *Public librarian* and a short film for children *It's fun finding out* had been exhibited before the meeting, and Council resolved that the latter title be placed on the Association's Visual Aids List as recommended by the Press and Publications Committee. In his report of the Committee, its Chairman, Harold Smith, declared that he "had done his best to suppress the reprinting of the *Primer of book classification*, 5th edition, but it was now unfortunately necessary to recommend it." He was not specific as to the method of suppression, but it was later discovered that the item empowering the officers to accept estimates for the reprint had not been offered to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. With Mr. Phillips not yet in the chair, it is doubtful whether this particular method had been considered seriously from the outset.

The Honorary Education and Sales Officer reported a recommendation from his Committee that the Honorary Secretary should write to Miss E. J. Willson expressing Council's appreciation of her gesture in assuming at short notice the tutoring responsibilities of the late Mr. R. Davison. The promptness with which long-standing members come to the aid of the Association at times of emergency and need is a source of pleasure to those of us still actively engaged in its affairs. The recommendation was warmly adopted.

The proposed new L.A. Syllabus once again proved too much for the Education and Library Committee, and a special meeting was authorised. Time had been found, however, to adopt a lengthy motion from the Yorkshire Division which was intended to defer implementation of the new syllabus. It went forward from Council in the form of cautionary advice to the L.A. that plans for education should not be precipi-

tated upon the profession before conditions are right. A suggestion at one stage to refer the motion back brought the Vice-President to his feet to declare that "this was acceptable so long as Council did not expect the Committee to change its mind." The question of candidates' exemption fees was also considered and, whilst the Committee was not prepared to say that they were exorbitant, Council decided that the L.A. should be asked to notice complaints which had been made.

As we enter into another year, the arrangements for the Conference at York are developing along interesting lines and members were gratified to learn that it is hoped, *inter alia*, to keep the cost of the fee for the week-end at £3 7s. 6d.

P. R. Labdon, now our Honorary Editor, spoke on behalf of the Greater London Division to their motion urging the Library Association to advertise in schools and other public places in relation to such occasions as Children's Library Week and the Commonwealth Technical Training Week. The motion was adopted, but not before the situation had been exploited for the expression of Council wit. Speculation arose as to what public places were intended, and when Mr. Shepherd, bent on developing the subject, informed Council that Dinky Toys were considering the issue of a scale model Mobile Library, the President expressed disappointment because he had been on the point of offering the idea to Matchbox.

The Honorary Secretary reported that a document considered by the Library Association Council disclosed that many public library authorities were compensating their staffs by various means for being unable to take advantage of the Monday to Friday week introduced for staffs in other departments. After discussion, Council resolved to press that where a five-day week has been adopted by the local authority, with

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Saturday as the free day, and this cannot be applied to the library staff, some form of compensation should be made to them. It was further resolved that the support of the staffs of other departments in similar circumstances be sought in bringing the attention of NALGO branches to the problem through the A.A.L. library representatives. Many local authorities are disposed to accept quite gratuitously limitations on the privileges of library and other staffs occasioned by public service and hours of opening. NALGO should seek this opportunity to prove that it is not only the National Association for Legal and General Officers and take a real interest in ensuring that the lead of the more progressive authorities in this respect is consolidated.

By 6 p.m. the ranks were so desperately thin as to emphasise the wisdom of Council's earlier decision to limit its future meetings to four per year as an experiment and to extend Committees and Council over two days. Special Committee Meetings and adjourned business are in danger of becoming regular features of procedure, and a special tribute should be paid to the country councillors who postponed their departure from the meeting to the last minute in the interests of democratic debate. I would take this opportunity to thank on behalf of the Association all members of the Council and the Honorary Officers for their effort and support in 1960, remembering especially our tireless and efficient President who has put into his office far more than we could ever be entitled to expect. His Chairmanship of Council inspired a well-deserved, if hasty, tribute at the end of the meeting which members—pious and witty alike, will heartily endorse.

JOHN HOYLE.

ELECTION OF A.A.L. NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR 1961

Elected :		Not Elected :	
D. Harrison	2001	A. Bill	1419
G. E. Smith	1830	C. K. Balmforth	1342
W. S. H. Ashmore	1692	S. J. Paget	1295
J. H. Jones	1659	K. P. Jones	1230
D. J. Bryant	1607		
Miss M. E. Wiggins	1550		
H. Smith	1519		
Miss M. E. Liquorice	1486		
M. Hughes	1401		

NOTE: *M. Hughes is elected in order to bring the number of Councillors under thirty to the statutory minimum of three. The others are Miss M. E. Wiggins and Mr. D. J. Bryant.*

(Signed) W. H. PHILLIPS, Presiding Officer.

The Herbert Affair

The Library Association has made the first official statement on its attitude to the Bill presented to Parliament on December 9th for its second reading by Mr. L. W. B. Teeling, M.P., on behalf of Sir Alan Herbert and others. Briefly, the Bill seeks to establish the ground for a contribution by the local authority through its library service to the publishers and authors for the use of their works in libraries as material for loan, analogous to the Performing Right which obtains in the case of published music. The methods it advocates, equally briefly, are that libraries should make certain charges directly on the borrower and that librarians should be required to submit an annual return as to the use made of a specific book in each year, on which return the amount payable would be calculated.

The L.A.'s case against the Bill was presented at a Press Conference on December 6th by Mr. B. S. Page, M.A., President of the L.A., and Mr. H. D. Barry (Secretary). Other officials present were Mr. Hutchings, Mer, Paton and Mr. Gardner. It is that the Bill seeks statutory recognition of a new principle: "that when an article is sold outright at a price fixed by the producer, he has the right to expect a further payment related to the number of people who use it"; that the publishers in presenting their case have provided no evidence that their profits are inadequate; that the case is not analogous to the Performing Right in music since in that case the product is translated into a different medium; that libraries in certain restricted cases underwrite the publishers by guaranteeing a market for their works, and that if the producers feel their profits to be insufficient, the remedy is to increase the price of books.

These arguments were dealt with in detail by Mr. Barry and the librarians present. Questions were invited and were dealt with as they arose in a thoroughly professional manner. All sections of the Press and Broadcasting media were represented and the overall impression from the floor was one of sympathy for the views expressed.

The Library Association has earned the gratitude of its members for the way this Press Conference was handled. The Public Relations Adviser, the Secretary and the members of Council present demonstrated a sensible and responsible attitude that can contribute nothing but good to the status of the profession; and the timing of the meeting (three days before the second reading of the Bill in Parliament) was exemplary. If the L.A. will maintain this attitude, whilst remembering that the members have a right to be as fully and quickly informed of its policies as possible, there will be widespread satisfaction throughout the profession.

IT'S FUN FINDING OUT

is an eleven-minute sound film made by a group of London librarians dealing with the training of children in the use of reference books. It has been widely shown amongst educationalists and has been well received; copies may be bought (at 12 guineas) or hired (at 7s. 6d.) from *W. F. Broome, West Norwood Library, 14, Knights Hill, London, S.E.27*. The film is sponsored by the A.A.L. Technical details: B. & W.; S.O.F.; 16mm.; 24 f.p.s. Age group: 10—15 approximately.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Syllabus

We are promised a full account of the A.A.L.'s discussion of the proposed syllabus. Things seem likely to move very quickly, so before I see the full account I want to register protest at the A.A.L.'s general agreement. I believe there is widespread dissatisfaction in the profession at the proposed syllabus, more especially among the younger members whose platform the A.A.L. should be.

Briefly, the most important points of dissent are these:

(1) It is irresponsible to talk of higher pre-entry qualifications and, while acknowledging that Chief Librarians in public libraries are finding it generally impossible to attract entrants with the present modest requirements, to give no indication as to why the matter can be expected to improve.

(2) With entry to full-time library school dependent only on GCE qualifications, it would be possible to become a qualified librarian without any practical training, unless the present farcical week or two of "practical work" were replaced by something like a year of really organised, supervised training.

(3) It must be recognised that there will always be some people who have to study part-time. This is going to be a bitter pill for some, but the A.A.L. correspondence courses will be quite inadequate if the proposed syllabus is what it seems to be. There must be a loosening of the "Registration at one sitting" rule for part-time students, and there must be large-scale schemes for day-release study.

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(4) It is quite unreasonable to continue to examine a student at Finals level in more than one speciality. The proposed Finals syllabus is an insult to mature students (and if people aren't mature by the time they have taken the "common core", there is certainly something wrong). No wonder at the paucity of thought in our profession, no wonder blind controversy passes for vigorous debate, when no-one ever gets time to study at any depth what interests him.

A further point is that in the statement in the July *Record*, which is all the membership has to go on, there are two crucial ambiguities. I believe many Chief Librarians are interpreting the GCE pre-entry requirements as requirements for entrants to library staffs. I would interpret them as requirements for entrants for full-time study courses. Again, some of us take it that when a 2-year full-time course is mentioned, it is intended to apply to preparation for the Registration examination only. This would require a separate period of study later for Finals, a hideously impractical scheme. Others believe the 2-year course is meant to cover Registration and Finals; the mixture as before, but the whole nasty dose taken in one gulp. Who is right?

Now, it may be that all these matters have been satisfactorily resolved. Perhaps there is an infallible scheme for making librarianship attractive to sixth formers. Perhaps there are plans to appoint supervised "training libraries". Perhaps the Membership Committee have good reasons for their dogmatic insistence on what they call a 2-tier examination, and perhaps they can demonstrate that a thesis, or a set of examinations in one speciality, has less claim to be called a "second tier" than six unconnected papers. But it is undemocratic and dishonest to lay the syllabus on the table without considerable *public* discussion of these matters. The membership must know that its interests are being looked after, before it assents. Remember, these proposals have only to be left alone and they become facts.

We must know far more precisely what is in store for us. It is all too easy to register general agreement with the proposals and wake up next year to find the L.A. Council murmuring "That is not what I meant at all." If the A.A.L. is not willing to give voice to the points of dissent I have made, and the several others I have heard argued vigorously and cogently in the profession, it is abdicating its role as the radical wing of the Library Association.

FRANK HATT, Bromley Technical College.

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What has happened to the A.A.L.? It is no longer a "ginger group," but an "agreement group." The A.A.L. has quietly accepted all the proposals for a new syllabus. Was there no dissension, no-one who pointed out the serious flaws in the proposals as set out in the *Record*, July, 1960? Is the A.A.L. Council composed of librarians who have finished their examinations and have conveniently forgotten their past?

Information may have been available to the Council that has not been given to the membership, but if the article by Miss Paulin is the only statement available, then the situation is indeed critical.

No mention is made of practical training in librarianship. How is the new entrant to discover whether he or she is suited to the work if, as seems suggested, such an entrant goes straight from school to library school for two years' hard theory? What of the effect on staffing of libraries for those who take their G.C.E. "A" levels whilst working and then go to full time library school? There is a staff shortage at present and there are no signs that it will improve: how will the Syllabus help? What has happened to the often mooted idea of training libraries?

Many students (as Mr. Davey points out in the *August Assistant*) will be unable to attend full-time school for personal, financial or geographical reasons. They have the three-year part-time course as an alternative. This seems a poor and unfair substitute. Such students should be able to take separate parts as at present, and in addition part-time study should be considerably improved—perhaps one whole day a week (with no loss of pay) should be set aside for it.

As if these unsatisfactory aspects of the Proposals were not enough, there remains the content of the Syllabus: it appears that the Education Sub-Committee of the L.A. accepted the sound idea of a common core of knowledge with no compulsory re-examination, embodied it in the Registration examination, and then decided that this was not guarantee enough and that the student would have to be re-examined at Final level in some of the subjects they had already passed. This is muddled thinking indeed.

This letter should not have been necessary. The A.A.L. Council should at the least have made certain the new proposals were not detrimental to the interests of many of its membership. Perhaps after all, an under-30 rule would not not be such a bad idea?

A. P. SHEARMAN.
Islington Public Libraries.

Parts of a book

In his letter on this subject in the November issue of the *Assistant* Mr. Morgan makes two rather wide assumptions regarding my treatment of this part of the F.P.E. syllabus. It seems to me important that these should be corrected.

First, he appears to take it for granted that I teach logical classification to F.P.E. students. I do not, as I assume, perhaps wrongly, that this is not part of the F.P.E. syllabus. Even in the Registration examination the emphasis on this subject has considerably diminished in the past few years.

Secondly he assumes that having taught logical classification a lecturer should ensure that every subsequent lecture should follow the rules of such classification if he is not to confuse students. It might be wonderful if this could be so, but the canons of logical classification are very seldom consistently followed by any other type of classification and this includes book classification. Certainly no order of classes for the

purposes of a lecture is going to provide mutually exclusive groups. The good student accepts a reasonable order, notes possible cross-division, and also possible pervasive themes to guard against the ever present risk of an examiner asking questions which require fact or opinion to be drawn from various parts of a particular course.

I agree that the four parts which I choose are mainly convenient pegs to hang facts on, and I also agree that to choose these or any other pegs for an examination question (particularly external) could be misleading to students. This was the point I made in the "Examination supplement". In fact it is an assumption on my part that the examiner's three parts were Preliminaries, Text, and Subsidiaries. I may again be wrong and perhaps it was one of Mr. Morgan's entertaining Trinities that was wanted, or could it be, since Mr. Morgan suggests mystical Trinities, that of Ranganathan; The Soul, The Subtle Body, and The Gross Body? These mean: the subject matter, the form in which it is presented, and the physical book.

My own feeling is that the grouping I have suggested is perhaps more defensible than others on the grounds of Bliss's theory of an "educational . . . consensus of opinion" as an order of classification.

Mr. Morgan is interested in discovering how many students answered this question. I am just as interested in discovering what three parts the examiners expected, and what others he was prepared to accept or not accept. It is one of the purposes of moderating committees to discuss such problems, and this matter will certainly be raised by myself at the next meeting.

J. M. ORR, *Extra-mural Lecturer, Loughborough School of Librarianship.*

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